

**Attachment C: Proposed amendment to the chapter I.1. Disease of fish: General Information in the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases***

CHAPTER I . 1 .

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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**A. GENERAL BASIS FOR FISH HEALTH SURVEILLANCE/CONTROL PROGRAMMES**

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**2. OVERALL APPROACH FOR ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROL IN FISH CULTURE**

A comprehensive approach for animal health control in fish culture requires:

- Assessment of the health status of animals [in a production site based on inspections and standardised sampling procedures followed by laboratory examinations conducted according to instructions given in this *Manual*] using methods based on the provision in the *Manual* chapter on Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection.
- The constraint of restocking open waters and farming facilities only with aquatic animals having a health status higher than or equal to that of animals already living in the considered areas.
- Eradication of disease when possible, by slaughtering infected stocks, disinfecting facilities and restocking with fish from approved disease-free sources.
- Notification by every Member Country of its particular requirements, besides those provided by the *Code*, for importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.

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**B . SAMPLING PROCEDURES**

**[ 1. COLLECTION OF FISH SPECIMENS**

Two situations can be encountered when collecting fish during inspection of fish production sites:

- fish exhibit the clinical signs of one of the diseases listed in the *Code* or other diseases.
- fish appear to be clinically normal.

The goals of the inspection/sampling procedures can thus be different: they are conducted:

- either to demonstrate the health status of a fish production site,
- or to confirm that a certain status is being maintained once it has been achieved after a minimum period of 2 years of implementation of the fish health surveillance programme enforced in the country.

**1.1. Fish exhibit clinical signs]**

**1. COLLECTION OF FISH SPECIMENS FOR DIAGNOSIS IN DISEASE SITUATIONS**

A minimum number of ten moribund fish or ten fish exhibiting clinical signs of the diseases in question, must be collected: fish should be alive when collected, and should be sent to the laboratory alive or killed and packed separately in sealed aseptic refrigerated containers or on ice. The freezing of collected fish must be strictly avoided. However, it is highly preferable and recommended to collect organ samples from the fish immediately after they have been selected at the fish production site and to store and process the samples as described in Sections 2 and 3. An identification label that includes information on the place and time of sampling must be attached to the sample.]